

OBLON SPIVAK ET AL.
Atty. Docket Number 246860US2 CONT
Inventor: Takafumi Ito et al.
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are presently active in this case; the specification amended by way of the present preliminary amendment.

The present application is a continuation application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to, Application Serial Number 09/714,189, filed November 17, 2000 ("the parent application"), which is a continuation of PCT/JP00/01619, filed March 16, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. JP11-71737, filed March 17, 1999. Thus, the present preliminary amendment amends the specification to incorporate the parent application by reference as suggested by The Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure.¹ Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 1-14 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

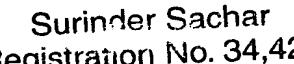
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)


Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record
Edwin D. Garlepp.
Registration No. 45,330

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Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

¹See M.P.E.P. §201.06(c) Incorporation By Reference.